

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7339
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTGART
USMISSION BERLIN
USCINCEUR
USAREUR
USAFC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJ: CDU/FDP COALITION GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER IN THE SAARLAND

REF: FRANKFURT 1472

1. FOLLOWING LAST MINUTE SNAGS AND A WEEKEND OF
HECTIC POLITICS IN SAARBRUECKEN, FRANZ-JOSEF ROEDER
(CDU) ON MARCH 1 PRESENTED THE NEW CDU/FDP COALITION
GOVERNMENT TO THE AAARLAND LANDTAG WHICH PROMPTLY
APPROVED IT IN A STRAIGHT PARTY LINE VOTE.

2. LAST MINUTE DIFFICULTIES AROSE WHEN THE FDP
LAND CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 26 REJECTED THAT
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PORTION OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDED FOR SPLITTING
THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN
ORDER TO RETAIN THE CDU'S POPULAR YOUNG RITA
WASCHBUESCH IN THE CABINET WHILE ALSO MAKING ROOM
FOR THE FDP'S ROSEMARIE SCHEURLEN. THIS UNEXPECTEDLY
STRONG OPPOSITION FORCED THE CDU TO DROP WASCHBUESCH
FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THUS AVOIDNG AN INCREASE IN

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CABINET POSTS. CONCURRENTLY, THE CDU ALSO DROPPED KONRAD SCHOEN WHO HAD BEEN UNDER SOME CRITICISM AS MINISTER OF FINANCE. HOWEVER, SCHOEN (WHO BECOMES SAARLAND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN BONN) HAS BEEN REPLACED BY FERDI BEHLES, ANOTHER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY. THE CONSOLATION PRIZE FOR MRS. WASCHBUESCH IS HER DESGNATION AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE LANDTAG, A GESTURE DEEMED INADEQUATE BY THE CDU WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION WHOSE BOARD HAS RESIGNED IN PROTEST AGAINST THE SACRIFICE OF THE EXTREMELY WELL LIKED MRS. WASCHBUESCH ON THE ALTER OF A CDU/FDP COLATION AND IN THE INTEREST OF LONG-RANGE CDU STRATEGY.

3. COMMENT: THE UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG OPPOSITION BY A MAJORITY OF THE FDP LAND CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO THE COALITION AGREEMENT WORKED OUT BY KLUMPP REPRESENTS A TEMPORARY SETBACK TO THE LATTER'S PRESTIGE FROM WHICH HE IS EXPECTED TO RECOVER. DROPPING WASCHBUESCH IS A BITTER PILL FOR ROEDER AND DOES NOT SIT WELL WITH THE CDU RANK AND FILE. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT SOMETHING MORE SUITABLE WILL EVENTUALLY BE FOUND FOR HER AND THAT TIME WILL HEAL INTERNAL CDU WOUNDS ON THIS SCORE. LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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